

CLAIMS

1. Installation (1) for cleaning various objects, such as paint guns (2), by means of a cleaning fluid such as a solvent, of the type that comprises:

- a closed-loop washing circuit (5A, 5B, 5C, 5D) that is found between a washing fluid storage drum (3) and a cleaning chamber (4) that contains the products to be cleaned, and
 - a rinsing circuit (7A, 5B, 5C, 5D) that is found between a rinsing fluid reserve (6) and washing chamber (4) whose contents are dumped into cleaning fluid storage drum (3),
 - a single pump (8) that is placed on a section (5B, 5C) of circuit common to the washing and rinsing circuits and extending between an at least three-way valve (9) that has at least two positions (washing/filling-rinsing) and cleaning chamber (4),
 - at least one so-called routine mode of operation that comprises at least two programs, called respectively washing and rinsing, selected based on the position occupied by the valve, whereby each program corresponds to a circulation of the cleaning fluid in the corresponding circuit by means of pump (8),
- characterized in that the installation also comprises means for controlling the operation of pump (8) that consist of at least means for detecting a predetermined amount of fluid in washing fluid storage drum (3) combined with means for detecting the position (washing/filling-rinsing) of valve (9) to make possible, in particular after installation of a new

reserve (6) of clean fluid, a start-up of the installation by executing a preliminary program for filling washing fluid storage drum (3) during which pump (8), with valve (9) in the rinsing position, transfers a predetermined amount of fluid from rinsing reserve (6) to washing fluid storage drum (3) until said amount is obtained in drum (3), whereby the detection of said amount allows a subsequent, so-called routine, operation of the installation.

2. Installation according to claim 1, wherein the means for controlling the operation of pump (8) ensure that, unless there is a predetermined amount of fluid in washing fluid storage drum (3), the pump will not operate with valve (9) in the washing position, and said means allow said pump (8) to operate with valve (9) in the rinsing-filling position.

3. Installation according to claim 1, wherein the means for detecting a predetermined amount of fluid in washing fluid storage drum (3) consist of a weight sensor (15) that is positioned close to the location of washing fluid storage drum (3) and optionally a sensor to detect the presence of said drum (3).

4. Installation according to claim 1, wherein the means for detecting a predetermined amount of fluid in washing fluid storage drum (3) consist of at least a sensor for detecting the fluid level inside drum (3).

5. Installation according to claim 1, wherein the means for detecting the position of valve (9) consist of two sensors (13, 14) that are positioned close to valve (9).

6. Installation according to one of claims 1 to 5, wherein during the start-up phase, the startup of pump (8) is also controlled with a foot control (12).

7. Installation according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein in the so-called routine mode of operation, pump (8) is controlled by the same actuating element for the execution of the washing or rinsing program.

8. Installation according to claim 7, wherein in the so-called routine mode of operation, pump (8) is controlled by a single foot control (12) that ensures the starting and execution of the washing or rinsing program based on the position that is occupied by valve (9).

9. Installation according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein in the so-called routine mode of operation, pump (8) is controlled by alternating single taps to execute the washing program and is continuously controlled by holding to execute the rinsing program based on the position that is occupied by valve (9).

10. Installation according to one of claims 1 to 9, wherein it comprises means for shutting down programs constituted by valve (9) that is positioned in a closing position or by opening an element (16) for closing cleaning chamber (4).

11. Installation according to one of claims 1 to 10, wherein pump (8) is a pneumatic membrane pump.